

# Foreword

**S**ixty-two years after Shenandoah National Park's dedication, we are far enough removed from its birth and have gathered enough information to examine objectively its "life." This issue of *CRM* is about Shenandoah's self examination.

The guiding philosophy for early park management was to remove the scars of previous human use and habitation from the land. Cabins, mills, and split-rail fences were demolished or left to melt into the landscape. Over the years, the forest grew prolifically, and the evidence of settlement has now substantially disappeared. So complete was the regeneration that in 1976, 79,579 acres were deemed of suitable primitive character to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Given the considerable benefit of hindsight and retrospection, we are today actively involved in many long-needed programs that help us better understand and tell the story of human use inside park boundaries. Identification, protection, and interpretation of the remaining significant cultural resources and archeological sites are now recognized as among our highest priorities.

This issue of *CRM* is an opportunity in reflection. We trust that it is an appropriate interpretation of past philosophy and that it clearly demonstrates lessons recently learned in cultural resource management. Archeology, ethnography, landscape architecture and historic architecture, history, natural resource research and policy, archives management, and interpretive issues at Shenandoah National Park are covered.

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